IN THE CLAIMS:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A recombinant retroviral vector, which is capable of undergoing promoter conversion and is replication-defective, comprising, in a 5' to 3' direction:

a) a 5' long terminal repeat region comprising the structure U3-R-U5:

b) a first coding sequence encoding a therapeutic peptide;

c) a second coding sequence encoding a peptide with Sag activity operably linked to a promoter, wherein the promoter is active in at least one of B cells and T cells; and

d) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a completely or partially deleted U3 region followed by the R and U5 region,

wherein said completely or partially deleted U3 region is replaced by a polylinker sequence comprising at least one unique restriction site into which is inserted one or more non-coding sequences selected from regulatory elements and promoters, which, upon infection of a target cell, regulate expression of the first coding sequence after promoter conversion.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A method of amplifying B- or T-cells comprising introducing a recombinant vector according to Claim 5 into B- or T-cells under conditions in which the peptide with Sag activity is expressed in the cells, thereby amplifying the B- or T-cells.

9. (Withdrawn) A recombinant retroviral vector system comprising a retroviral vector according to Claim 5 and a packaging cell line harboring at least one retroviral or recombinant retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral vector to be packaged.

10. (Withdrawn) A retroviral provirus produced by the replication of a retroviral vector in the retroviral vector system according to Claim 9 comprising:

a) the U3 region which duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in the infected target cell and appears in the 5' long terminal repeat and in the 3' long terminal repeat of the resulting provirus, and

b) the U5 of the 5' long terminal repeat which duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in the infected target cell and appears in the 3' long terminal repeat and in the 5' long terminal repeat of the resulting provirus.

11. (Withdrawn) The retroviral provirus of Claim 10 wherein one or more heterologous DNA fragments are inserted into said polylinker sequence, followed by the R and U5 region.

12. (Withdrawn) mRNA transcribed of a retroviral provirus according to Claim 10.

13. (Withdrawn) A retroviral particle produced by transfecting a packaging cell line according to Claim 9 with a retroviral vector, and isolating said retroviral particle.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for introducing nucleotide sequences encoding peptides with Sag activity into a cell comprising:

a) transfecting a packaging cell line of a retroviral vector system according to Claim 9 with a retroviral vector, and

b) infecting the cell with said recombinant retroviruses produced by the packaging cell line.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 14 wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of an animal cell and a human cell.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for introducing nucleotide sequences encoding peptides with Sag activity in to a mammal comprising:

a) transfecting a packaging cell line of a retroviral vector system according to Claim 9 with a retroviral vector, and

b) infecting the mammal with said recombinant retroviruses produced by the packaging cell line.

17. (Withdrawn) A host cell infected with a retroviral vector or a derivative thereof according to Claim 10.

18-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A host cell infected with a retroviral vector according to Claim 5.

23. (Previously presented) The recombinant retroviral vector of Claim 5, wherein the at least one non-coding sequence comprises a tissue-specific promoter.

24. (Previously presented) The recombinant retroviral vector of Claim 23, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is inactive in B-cells, T-cells, or both B-cells and T-cells.

25. (Previously presented) The recombinant retroviral vector of Claim 5, wherein the promoter operably linked to the second coding sequence encoding the peptide with Sag activity is active in both B-cells and T-cells.